CLASSIFICATION

Military - Artillery; biographical

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENC FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

INFORMATION FROM

REPORT CD NO.

COUNTRY SUBJECT

USSR

DATE OF

INFORMATION November 1949

HOW

PUBLISHED

Daily newspapers

DATE DIST 2 Mar 1950

WHERE **PUBLISHED**

USSR

NO. OF PAGES

DATE

PUBLISHED 20 Nov 1949

LANGUAGE

Russian

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

Newspapers as indicated.

USSR CELEBRATES ARTILLERY DAY 1949

The USSR marked its fifth annual Artillery Day on 20 November 1949. Joint meetings of government, Party, community, and military leaders in cities, and smaller celebrations at military posts and aboard naval vessels were held the preceeding day. The main festivities were held on 19 November at the Central Theater of the Red Army and attended by high-ranking Armed Forces officers in Moscow.

Artillery Day was established by Stalin in 1944 to commemorate the decisive Soviet counterattack at Stalingrad which began 19 November 1942.

Order No 109, signed by Marshal of the Soviet Urion Vasilevskiy, Minister of the Armed Forces USSR, and dated Moscow, 20 November 1949, was published in all Soviet newspapers. The order calls for the celebration of Artillery Day throughout the

Artillery Day celebrations were held 19 November in the officers' club of organizations of the Administration of the Supreme Commander of the Naval Forces, according to a news item in Krasnvy Flot on the following day. Generals, admirals, officers, and civilian employees of the general headquarters and administrations of the Naval Forces were present. Vice Admiral Fokin opened the meeting and Captain 1st Rank Reshetov spoke on Artillery Day.

According to Zarya Vostoka, 20 November, Georgian government, Party, and community leaders and representatives of the Tbilisi Garrison met on 19 November in Tbilisi to celebrate. The presidium included General of the Army A. Antonov and General-mayor Yefimov.

The presidium at the Minsk celebration on 19 November included General-mayors A. I. Zudov and G. S. Yemel'yanenko, according to Sovetskaya Belorussiya, 20 November.

Sovetskaya Latviya on 20 November revealed that the Executive Committee of the Riga City Soviet of Workers Deputies and the Riga City Committee of the KP(b)

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Lativa had met with community leaders and Soviet Army representatives on 19 November to celebrate Artillery Day. Among the military leaders present were Generals Vashkevich, Rogov, and Gulyayev. The speaker /name not given/ expressed the opinion that "...our artillery, thanks to the concern of the Bolshevik Party and the great Stalin, has become a first-class artillery, the most powerful in the world."

Moldavian government, Party, and community leaders met with military representatives on 19 November in Kishinev. F. Ya. Tutushkin, Minister of Internal Affairs of the Moldavian SSR, was in the presidium, according to the report in Sovetskava Moldaviya the next day.

Lead editorials in all newspapers on 20 November glorified the development of the artillery during the Soviet regime, with particular emphasis on achievements in World War II. Although the phaseology varied slightly, all editorials were a rehash of the same general information made public on all such occasions. The lead editorial in Krasnyy Flot, 20 November, added a statement to the leffect that the Soviet Armed Forces "has a first-class artillery created by the Soviet people with their own hands." The Naval Forces organ also quoted Stalin as having said in his order dedicated to the first Artillery Day in 1944 that "the Soviet artillery is the main striking force of our army."

In addition to lead editorials, all papers carried special articles on the second page by high-ranking artillery officers. These contained the same vague, general statements usually found in this type of article. These were devoted chiefly to the development of Soviet artillery between 1917 and the present, and contained the usual praise of Stalin's and the Party's part in this development.

Chief Marshal of Artillery N. Voronov, in an article entitled, "Stalin Artillery," which appeared in <u>Pravda</u>, 20 November, remarked, "Soviet artillery personnel, with characteristic energy and persistence, are fulfilling the tasks set before them in the November order of Marshal of the Soviet Union Vasilevskiy, Minister of the Armed Forces USSR, on the need to continue to improve their military and political training. Strict military discipline is the most important prerequisite for successful fulfillment of these patriotic duties."

General-polkovnik of Artillery N. M. Khlebnikov's article in the 20 November issue of <u>Krasnyy Flot</u>, "A Powerful Branch of the Armed Forces," traced the development of artillery during Soviet power and named the well-known leading artillery men and designers of the period. A shorter version of Khlebnikov's article appeared in <u>Moskovskiy Bol'shevik</u> and <u>Sovetskaya Latviya</u> on the same day under the title, "The Main Striking Force of the Soviet Army."

General-polkovnik of Artillery F. Samsonov's article, "The Powerful Stalin Artillery," a review of Soviet artillery action in World War II, appeared on 20 November in $\underline{\text{Trud}}$.

General-polkovnik of Artillery I. Volkotrubenko noted the wartime progress of artillery and Stalin's contribution to it in an article entitled, "The Stalin Artillery of the Soviet Army," in Komsomol'skaya Pravda on 20 November.

General-leytenant I. Prochko's article "The Powerful Soviet Artillery," received the widest dissemination of all the special articles. Prochko also traces the development of artillery during World War II, stressing Stalin's role, The article appeared on 20 November in Kommunist, Zarya Vostoka, Pravda Vostoka, Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, Sovetskaya Kirgiziya, Leningradskaya Pravda, Sovetskaya Litva, Sovetskaya Estoniya, and Sovetskaya Moldaviya. On the same day, Prochko's article was printed in Bakinskiy Rabochiy as "The Main Striking Force of the Soviet Army" and in Kommunist Tadzhikistana as "A Powerful Weapon of the People." Izvestiya carried a slightly longer version under the title, "The Powerful Stalin Artillery."

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Marshal of Artillery M. N. Chistyakov's article, "Stalin Artillery," appeared on 20 November in Krasnaya Zvezda. Sovetskaya Belorussiya's special article, a general description of artillery developments from 1917 to 1949, was written by P. Buryachenko, whose rank or title was not given.

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